

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail Minutes - August 17, 2022

Condensed from draft minutes

Board Attendees: Alex Bernhard, Amy Chan, Barbara Couturier, Steve Darling, George Heaton, Cody Hussey, Dustin Ladd, Charles Martin, Ricker Miller, Don Moyer, Myra Mayman, Chris Norris.

Promotion Committee Member: Patricia Rasche

Welcome Guest: Clispe Ndayizeve, Concord

Business Matters

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dustin Ladd's report showed healthy current balances, commitments already made for those funds, and the sketch of a 2023 budget which demonstrates the need to raise funds for the Boscawen Extension and other vital future projects.

Our account currently holds approximately \$76,000 of general-use funds, and approximately \$24,500 set aside for the Boscawen Extension – all committed to several ongoing improvement projects, as well as a reserve. Newly realized needed work – such as the Enfield Lakeside Park Bridge – must thus await the new year and new funds.

Although the yearly budget is not finalized until January, the Board discussed a helpful first-draft that Dustin had constructed. As a matter of format, we agreed that the past year's budget should remain unchanged as a prior measure against which we construct an "actual" record of expenditures. These in turn feed into the next year's budget.

Taking this approach, and assessing – at first estimation – the new construction, maintenance, and safety projects that should be undertaken next year, we envision the need for fundraising of approximately \$40,000. This is over and above the projects projected for next year for which grant applications are already in the works. In the October meeting, we will address the budget again and strategies for fundraising to match these needs on the Trail.

Committee Reports

Maintenance Committee: The "banner headline" from Chair Don Moyer's report is the start of physical work on the Boscawen Extension of the Trail. With the signature of a Temporary Use Agreement (TUA) by our contractors and the DOT, all are now hard at work. The first task is to clear trees and brush, for which FNRT has commissioned aerial photography to document this exciting development.

Don noted that the \$24,000 budgeted for full construction of the Extension fall short of the true anticipated cost, which is likely to be over \$41,000. We will soon take up a fundraising strategy for this vital project.

Other good news came from the Bureau of Trails, which is undertaking the re-decking of four bridges along the Trail. We thank the Bureau and look forward to smooth riding.

Two maintenance and improvement projects funded by Recreational Trails Program (RTP) – at Plains Road in Andover and Punch Brook in Franklin – are now in full swing, with Ricker Miller overseeing their progress. It was agreed to test the gravel being offered by the contractor to assure that it meets our 3/8-minus specification for best Trail surface quality.

A hoped-for connection in Franklin between the Winnepesaukee River Trail and the Northern Rail Trail continues to be under study by various groups in Franklin. Don Moyer is our liaison to this effort, which we applaud.

As a reminder that work on the Trail is never done, Don Moyer presented photos and other information about two areas of concern: the Mascoma Lake
See FNRT on page 24



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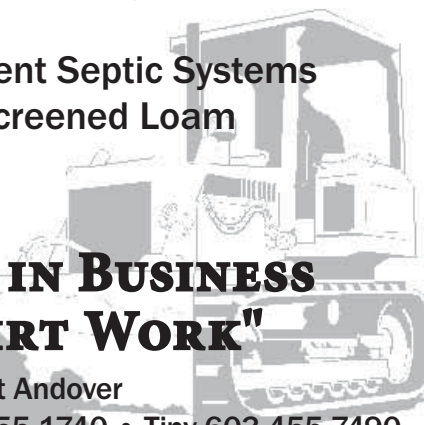
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Women seeking care at New London Hospital (NLH) and Newport Health Center have a compassionate advocate in Stephanie L. Schmidt, MSN, APRN.

She recently joined the Women's Health Department after serving as a nurse practitioner on the Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN) team at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) since 2019.

To schedule an appointment with Schmidt, contact the Newport Health Center at (603) 863-1274.



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"I can better manage women's care working in a smaller environment, where I can build trusted relationships with my patients."

-Stephanie L. Schmidt, MSN, APRN



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